

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-27 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a ~~controllerdetecting-section~~ detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

~~a display-section~~ displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected, ~~by said detecting-section~~; and

~~an issuing-section~~ issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

wherein ~~said issuing-section issues the~~ search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate input character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

2. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said issuing-section issues the~~ search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while the characters of the candidate input character string are being input until a define instruction is made to define and finalize the input characters of the candidate character string.

3. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller ends~~further comprising: an ending-section ending~~ a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input characters of the candidate character string.

4. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a ~~controllerdetecting-section~~ detecting a keyword from a character string that is being

input by the character input function;

~~a display section~~ displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected ~~by said detecting section~~; and

~~a starting section~~ starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

wherein ~~said starting section starts the program is started~~ while characters of the candidate input character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

5. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller registers ~~further comprising: a registering section registering~~ data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the corresponding attribute value, according to an interactive process.

6. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller ~~said display section~~ displays a program which cannot be started by the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot be started.

7. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller ends ~~further comprising: an ending section ending~~ a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input characters of the candidate character string.

8. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller ~~detecting section~~ detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

~~a display section~~ displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected ~~by said detecting section~~; and

~~a starting section~~ starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

wherein ~~said starting section starts the program is started~~ while characters of the candidate input character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

9. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the controller

~~registers further comprising: a registering section registering data of a corresponding relationship~~  
of the keyword and the program, according to an interactive process.

10. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the controller  
~~ends further comprising: an ending section ending~~ a started program in response to a selection  
made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input  
characters of the candidate character string.

11. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller~~detecting section~~ detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is  
being input by the character input function;

~~a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion~~  
programs when the keyword is detected, ~~by said detecting section;~~ and

~~a starting section starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu~~  
screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

wherein said ~~starting section starts the~~ conversion program is started while characters of  
the candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate  
character string are defined and finalized.

12. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 11, wherein said  
controller~~display section~~ displays a conversion program which cannot convert the keyword on  
the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot convert.

13. (currently amended) The computer as claimed in claim 11, wherein the controller  
~~ends further comprising: an ending section ending~~ a started program in response to a selection  
made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define and finalize input  
characters of the candidate character string.

14. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a controller~~detecting section~~ detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is  
being input by the character input function;

a display section displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined  
operation in a state where the keyword is detected, ~~by said detecting section;~~ and

an executing section executing a process using the keyword depending on an

item selected on the menu screen;

wherein said ~~executing section executes the process~~ is executed while characters of the candidate input character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

15. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a)——detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b)——displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting a keyword; and

(c)——issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

wherein said ~~issuing issues the search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword;~~ is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate input character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

16. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a)——detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b)——displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c)——starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

wherein said ~~starting starts the program~~ is started while characters of the candidate input character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

17. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a)——detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a

character input function;

(b)——displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c)——starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

wherein said ~~starting starts the program~~ is started while characters of the candidate ~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

18. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a)——detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b)——displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c)——starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

wherein said ~~starting starts the conversion program~~ is started while characters of the candidate ~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

19. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a)——detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b)——displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c)——executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

wherein said ~~executing executes the process~~ is executed while characters of the candidate ~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

20. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character

input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program, comprising:

- a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

- a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

- an issuing procedure causing the computer to issue a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

wherein said issuing procedure causes the computer to issue the search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets while characters of the candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

- a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

- a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

- a starting procedure causing the computer to start a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

wherein said starting procedure causes the computer to start the program which is selected while characters of the candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

22. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

- a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

- a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen used for starting a

program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

wherein said starting procedure causes the computer to start the program corresponding to the keyword while characters of the candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

23. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting program causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

wherein said starting procedure causes the computer to start the conversion program while characters of the candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are defined and finalized.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a candidate character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

an executing procedure causing the computer to execute a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

wherein said executing procedure causes the computer to execute the process while characters of the candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the

candidate character string are defined and finalized.

25. (currently amended) A method for processing, comprising:  
receiving a candidate character string input from a user;  
selecting, by a processor, at least one program while characters of the candidate~~input~~  
character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate character string are  
defined and finalized; and  
displaying output from the program.

26. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a ~~controller~~~~detecting section~~ detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is  
being input into a word processing application by the character input function;  
~~a display section~~ displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when  
the keyword is detected, ~~by said detecting section~~; and  
~~an issuing section~~ issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the  
keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to  
a dictionary search program;  
wherein said ~~issuing section~~ issues the search request for the dictionary data specified  
by the keyword, is issued with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search  
targets as the candidate character string is being input until the input characters of the candidate  
character string are defined and finalized.

27. (currently amended) A computer having a character input function, comprising:  
a ~~controller~~~~detecting section~~ detecting a keyword from a candidate character string that is  
being input into a word processing application by the character input function;  
~~a display section~~ displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when  
the keyword is detected, ~~by said detecting section~~; and  
~~a starting section~~ starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while  
specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;  
wherein said ~~starting section~~ starts the program is started while characters of the  
candidate~~input~~ character string are being input until the input characters of the candidate  
character string are defined and finalized.